I claim:

1.   A method for assigning an order to an opening in a schedule after a customer has selected an appointment window in the schedule, wherein the opening and the appointment window are specified, comprising:

generating a list of schedulable time blocks for a shift identified in the opening;

intersecting the opening and the appointment window to obtain a time range; and

choosing the opening in which to assign the order if a schedulable time block from the list of schedulable time blocks includes the opening, and wherein the opening is within the time range obtained by the act of intersecting.

2.   A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for causing a computer to perform a method for assigning an order to an opening in a schedule after a customer has selected an appointment window in the schedule, wherein the opening and the appointment window are specified, the method comprising:

generating a list of schedulable time blocks for a shift identified in the opening;

intersecting the opening and the appointment window to obtain a time range; and

choosing the opening in which to assign the order if a schedulable time block from the list of schedulable time blocks includes the opening, and wherein the opening is within the time range obtained by the act of intersecting.

3.   A method for assigning an order to a schedule after a customer has specified an appointment window in the schedule, comprising:

checking a list of openings for overlap with the appointment window;

generating a list of schedulable time blocks in a shift if there is no overlap; and

assigning the order to the schedule if there is an opening in the list of openings that overlaps with the appointment window or an opening in the list of schedulable time blocks that overlaps with the appointment window.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising updating a tour time of the shift, wherein updating includes incrementing the time required to travel to the order and from the order to a next order, wherein updating includes incrementing a booked time for the shift by an amount of time needed for traveling to the order and an amount of time needed to work on the order, and wherein updating includes adjusting a load level of the shift to account for the order.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising aggregating at least two orders according to an aggregation criteria.

6. The method of claim 5, further comprising defragmenting a set of free time blocks in the shift.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising committing the shift, which has been modified to fit the order, to a database.

8. A computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon for causing a computer to perform a method for assigning an order to a schedule after a customer has specified an appointment window in the schedule, the method comprising:

checking a list of openings for overlap with the appointment window;

generating a list of schedulable time blocks in a shift if there is no overlap; and

assigning the order to the schedule if there is an opening in the list of openings that overlaps with the appointment window or an opening in the list of schedulable time blocks that overlaps with the appointment window.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising updating a tour time of the shift, wherein updating includes incrementing the time required to travel to the order and from the order to a next order, wherein updating includes incrementing a booked time for the shift by

an amount of time needed for traveling to the order and an amount of time needed to work on the order, and wherein updating includes adjusting a load level of the shift to account for the order.

10.   The method of claim 9, further comprising aggregating at least two orders according to an aggregation criteria.

11.   The method of claim 10, further comprising defragmenting a set of free time blocks in the shift.

12.   The method of claim 11, further comprising committing the shift, which has been modified to fit the order, to a database.